Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing anti-aliased images comprising:

~~characterizing~~ comparing at least one image portion of an anti-aliased input image ~~using~~ against one or more loose-templates to produce a comparison image; and

processing the ~~characterized~~ comparison image to ~~affect~~ determine whether a ~~second image~~ match condition is satisfied.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of processing controls at least one or more line-widths of the ~~second~~ comparison image.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of ~~characterizing~~ comparing the anti-aliased image includes:

extracting the at least one ~~or more~~ image ~~portions~~ portion from the anti-aliased input image; and

performing a pattern matching operation between at least one loose-template and the at least one image portion to produce a screen containing at least one or more features.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of ~~characterizing~~ comparing further includes arbitrating between at least two or more features in the screen.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 4,~~ A method for processing anti-aliased images, comprising:

characterizing an anti-aliased input image using one or more loose-templates; and

processing the characterized image to affect a second image, wherein the step of characterizing the anti-aliased image includes:

extracting one or more image portions from the anti-aliased input image; and

performing a pattern matching operation between at least one loose-template and at least one image portion to produce a screen containing at least one or more features, wherein the step of characterizing further includes arbitrating between at least two or more features in the screen, and the step of arbitrating effectively eliminates at least one feature.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 4,~~ A method for processing anti-aliased images, comprising:

characterizing an anti-aliased input image using one or more loose-templates; and

processing the characterized image to affect a second image, wherein the step of characterizing the anti-aliased image includes:

extracting one or more image portions from the anti-aliased input image; and

performing a pattern matching operation between at least one loose-template and at least one image portion to produce a screen containing at least one or more features, wherein the step of characterizing further includes arbitrating between at least two or more features in the screen, and the step of arbitrating produces a new feature.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method ~~of claim 4,~~ A method for processing anti-aliased images, comprising:

characterizing an anti-aliased input image using one or more loose-templates; and

processing the characterized image to affect a second image, wherein the step of characterizing the anti-aliased image includes:

extracting one or more image portions from the anti-aliased input image; and

performing a pattern matching operation between at least one loose-template and at least one image portion to produce a screen containing at least one or more features, wherein the step of characterizing further includes arbitrating between at least two or more features in the screen, and the step of characterizing further includes arbitrating between at least two or more screens.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of ~~characterizing~~ comparing further includes producing one or more feature vectors.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~second~~ comparison image is an anti-aliased image.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of ~~characterizing~~ comparing includes reducing a resolution of at least a portion of the anti-aliased input image.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising comparing the anti-aliased image portion to at least one template.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein controlling the line-width of at least one of the one or more lines of the ~~second~~ comparison image includes controlling a growth of the at least one line-width.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein controlling the line-widths uses at least a look-up table.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing images comprising:

at least one ~~or more loose-templates~~ loose-template; and

a control device that ~~affects~~ produces a ~~second~~ comparison image based on comparing the at least one ~~or more loose templates and~~ loose-template against an anti-aliased image to determine whether a match condition is satisfied.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the control device controls at least one or more line-widths of the ~~second~~ comparison image.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

a windowing device that extracts one or more image portions from the anti-aliased image; and

a pattern matching device that performs at least one pattern matching operation between the at least one loose-template and at least one anti-aliased image portion to produce a screen containing at least one or more features.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising an arbitration device that arbitrates between at least two or more features in the screen.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus ~~of claim 17~~ for processing images, comprising:

one or more loose-templates;

a control device that affects a second image based on the one or more loose-templates and an anti-aliased image;

a windowing device that extracts one or more image portions from the anti-aliased image;

a pattern matching device that performs at least one pattern matching operation between at least one loose-template and at least one anti-aliased image portion to produce a screen containing at least one or more features; and

an arbitration device that arbitrates between at least two or more features in the screen, wherein the arbitration device effectively eliminates at least one feature.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus ~~of claim 17~~ for processing images, comprising:

one or more loose-templates;

a control device that affects a second image based on the one or more loose-templates and an anti-aliased image;

a windowing device that extracts one or more image portions from the anti-aliased image;

a pattern matching device that performs at least one pattern matching operation between at least one loose-template and at least one anti-aliased image portion to produce a screen containing at least one or more features; and

an arbitration device that arbitrates between at least two or more features in the screen, wherein arbitration device produces a new feature.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus ~~of claim 17~~ for processing images, comprising:

one or more loose-templates;

a control device that affects a second image based on the one or more loose-templates and an anti-aliased image;

a windowing device that extracts one or more image portions from the anti-aliased image;

a pattern matching device that performs at least one pattern matching operation between at least one loose-template and at least one anti-aliased image portion to produce a screen containing at least one or more features; and

an arbitration device that arbitrates between at least two or more features in the screen, wherein the arbitration device further arbitrates between at least two or more screens.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the control device produces one or more feature vectors based on the anti-aliased input image and one or more loose-templates.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the ~~second~~ comparison image is a second anti-aliased image.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the windowing device reduces a resolution of at least a portion of the anti-aliased image.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for processing anti-aliased images comprising:

~~characterizing~~ comparing at least one image portion of an anti-aliased input image ~~using~~ against one or more loose-templates to produce a comparison image, each loose-template having a plurality of image elements, wherein at least one of the image elements has a range greater than one; and

processing the ~~characterized~~ comparison image to ~~affect~~ determine whether a ~~second image~~ match condition is satisfied.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing images comprising:

one or more loose-templates each having a plurality of image elements, wherein at least one image element has a range greater than one; and

a control device that ~~affects~~ produces a ~~second~~ comparison image based on comparing the at least one ~~or more loose-templates and~~ loose-template against an anti-aliased image to determine whether a match condition is satisfied.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of comparing includes:

determining a characteristic relation between the at least one portion of the comparison image and the template to produce a characteristic determination;

comparing the characteristic determination against a template threshold; and

determining whether the characteristic determination satisfies a template comparison condition based on comparing against the template threshold.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of the one or more loose-templates contains a plurality of template elements, and the template threshold contains a uniform threshold value for the plurality of template elements.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of the one or more loose-templates contains a plurality of template elements, and the template threshold contains a corresponding threshold values for each template element of the plurality of template elements.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the control device includes:

a relating device that determines a characteristic relation between the at least one portion of the comparison image and the template to produce a characteristic determination;

a comparing device that compares the characteristic determination against a template threshold; and

a satisfying device that determines whether the characteristic determination satisfies a template comparison condition based on comparing against the template threshold.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein at least one of the one or more loose-templates contains a plurality of template elements, and the template threshold contains a uniform threshold value for the plurality of template elements.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein at least one of the one or more loose-templates contains a plurality of template elements, and the template threshold contains a corresponding threshold values for each template element of the plurality of template elements.

32. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the template includes a plurality of template elements, each template element having a target value and a span.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the template includes a plurality of template elements, each template element having a target value and a span.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The replacement sheets of drawings includes changes and additions to Figs. 11 and 14-17. These sheets, which include Figs. 11 and 14-17, replace the original sheets including Figs. 11 and 14-17.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets: (Figs. 11 and 14-17)